

Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

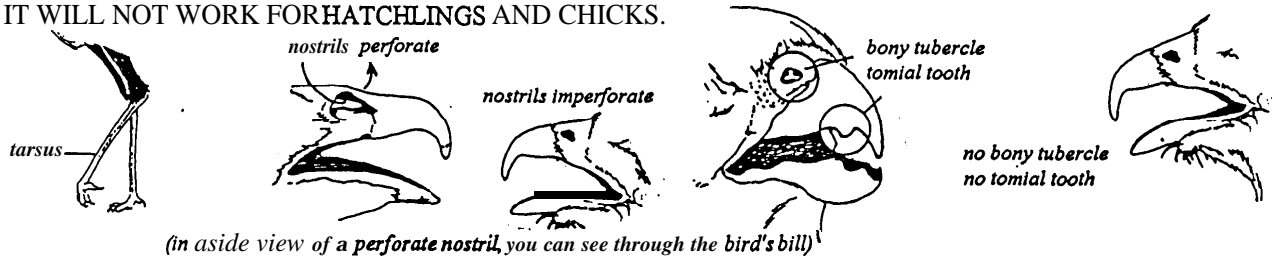
CATEGORY: **BIRD**

Scientific Name/s: Falconiformes

Common Name/s: eagle, falcon, hawk, vulture

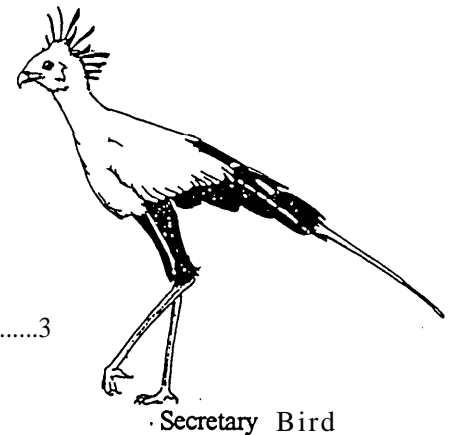
PROBLEM: Mounted or whole specimens of **raptors** are presented for **identification**.

Diurnal birds of prey (**Falconiformes**) are recognized by their hooked beaks and robust feet. **Well-developed** talons are commonly present. Determination to Family is the first step in the **identification** process. When country or region of origin is known, most diurnal raptors can be assigned to genus (and often to species) by reference to field guides. The following key will assist you in assigning fledgling and adult diurnal birds of prey to Family.
IT WILL NOT WORK FOR HATCHLINGS AND CHICKS.

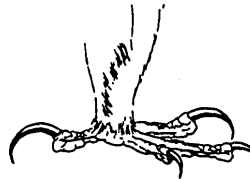


KEY TO FAMILIES OF DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

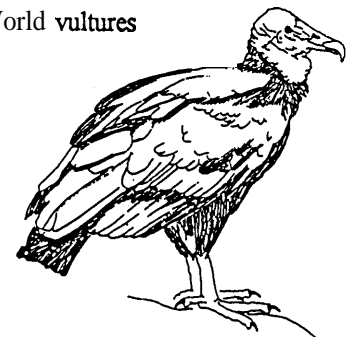
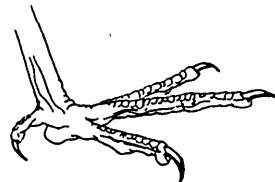
1. a. tarsus shorter than 8 inches..... 2
- b. tarsus longer than 8 inches **Sagittariidae**: Secretary Bird (Africa)



2. a. nostrils **imperforate**, hind toe not elevated, hind **talon** well developed.....3



- b. nostrils **perforate**, hind toe elevated and **reduced**..... **Cathartidae**: New World vultures (North, South and Central America)



PLEASE TURN OVER

Identification Notes

CATEGORY:

BIRD

Scientific Name/s

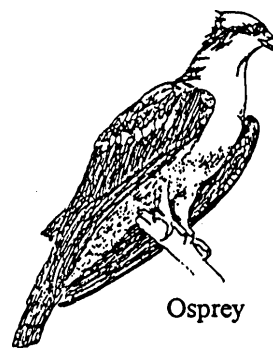
Falconiformes

Common Name/s:

eagle, falcon, hawk, vulture

3. a. talons not equal in size and length.....4 ,

b. talons approximately equal in size and lengthPandionidae. Osprey
(worldwide)

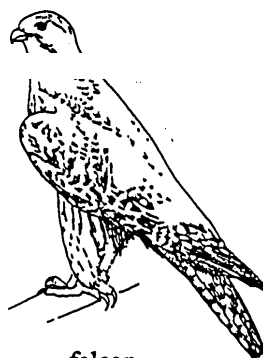


Osprey

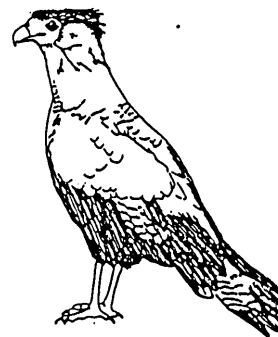
4. a. bill with **tomial** tooth, bony **tubercle** in nostrilFalconidae: falcons,
caracaras (worldwide except Antarctica)

bony tubercle

tomial tooth



falcon

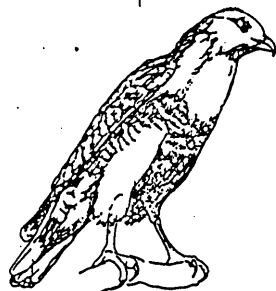


caracara

b. no **tomial** tooth on bill, no bony **tubercle** in nostril Accipitridae: kites,
hawks, eagles and Old World vultures (worldwide except Antarctica)

no bony tubercle

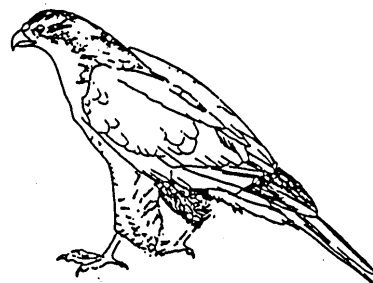
no tomial tooth



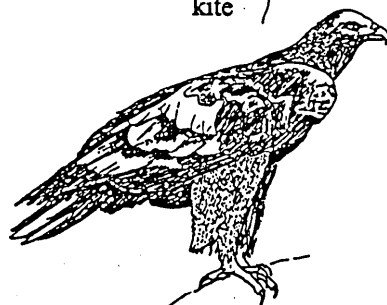
Buteo



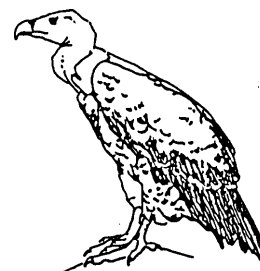
kite



Accipiter



eagle



Old World vulture

REFERENCES:

Newton, I., ed. 1990. Birds of Prey. Facts on File, Inc. New York. 240 pp.
Weick, F. 1980. Birds of Prey of the World. Collins, London. 159 pp.

Illustrations by: Anthony E. Kerwin